

Testimony of Sarah J. Pavone
Judiciary Committee
HB 5487 - 12 March 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, members of the committee; Thank you for allowing me to send in my written testimony. The reason I am unable to be there in person is because I am attending the wake of my 23 year old cousin, Vincent Carey, who passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2014 from a heroin overdose.

Vincent was a recent graduate from Keene State University in New Hampshire. During his time there he was the president of his fraternity Sigma PI. After college he moved back home to become a Service Manager in the family business. Throughout his years in middle and high school he was active in theatre, football, his church St. Thomas the Apostle and was crowned homecoming king. He had the most amazing smile and was able to make anyone laugh.

While I am still grieving and trying to make sense of such a loss, all I can think of is what could have been done to save him? Vincent showed no signs of opioid addiction. From what I have learned from his friends, like many others, his addiction started with prescription pills and quickly escalated to heroin.

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 2:15 am, Vincent's "friend" sent a text message to someone asking "Is it normal for Vin to snore so loud and weird? It's creeping me out. He literally won't get up." While assumptions could only be made as to why this "friend" did not call 911 at that moment, whether it be out of fear of getting caught himself, denial, or lack of knowledge of what to do, having access to Naloxone could have saved my cousin's life in that moment to give his friend extra time to make that call.

My cousin was never allowed the chance to get help and get back on track. Please support HB 5487 so that someone else can be granted that chance. Thank you.